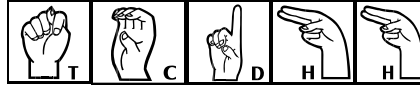


SIGN POST

TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF
AND HARD OF HEARING NEWS



April 2011



Inside this issue:

Introductions	2
Worth Repeating	2
TCDHH Highlights	2
Executive Director Activities	3
News from HLAA	3
Upcoming Events	4
Contact Us	4

From the Director's Desk — Thom Roberts

Springtime Is Blooming

Spring is a season when nature seems to awaken from a deep winter's sleep. It is a great time to "awaken" ourselves to do our Spring Cleaning. As a part of this activity, I encourage each reader to contribute an article for this, YOUR newsletter. We want this to be from you, about you, to the whole state. Please send in your articles, news, workshop information, and anything else you think may be good to share with your other readers.

This is YOUR time to bloom!



COUNCIL MEMBERS

Andrea Cooper, DRS Asst. Commissioner
Dana Hughes, Consumer, Chair
Paulette Melton, DHS, Vice Chair
Summer Chappell, TRID
Michael Friedman, Central Tennessee
Deborah Harris, West Tennessee
Alan Mealka, Dept. of Education
Margie Ulrich, East Tennessee
Lordy Smith, Consumer
Lygia Williams, Dept. of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
Kim Dance, TAD President

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S NEW ADA RULES GO INTO EFFECT MARCH 15, 2011

Revised regulations implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) took effect March 15, 2011, the Department of Justice announced. The revised rules are the department's first major revision of its guidance on accessibility in 20 years.

The regulations apply to the activities of more than 80,000 units of state and local government and more than seven million places of public accommodation, including stores, restaurants, shopping malls, libraries, museums, sporting arenas, movie theaters, doctors' and dentists' offices, hotels, jails and prisons, polling places, and emergency preparedness shelters. Section 36.303 "Auxiliary Aids and Services" relates specifically to individuals with hearing loss.

For more information about the ADA, call the Justice Department's toll-free ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 or 800-514-0383 (TTY), or access the department's ADA website at www.ada.gov.



Introductions (& Congratulations)



Please welcome: Charlie Good as Interim CEO of Frontier Health, Inc. which is over Communication Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Beth James as the new Director of Jackson Center for Independent Living.

Teresa Wilson as the new Executive Director of Deaf Connect of the Mid South.



Worth Repeating... (taken from our July 2009 issue)

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Tornadoes generally occur near the trailing edge of a thunderstorm. It is not uncommon to see clear, sunlit skies behind a tornado. Peak tornado season in the southern states is **March through May** and tornadoes are most likely to occur between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., but can occur at any time. Here are some things you should know. **Tornado Watch:** Tornadoes are possible, remain alert. **Tornado Warning:** A tornado has been sighted or indicated by radar, TAKE SHELTER!

What to do before a tornado: Have a plan for safety. Look for danger signs: dark, often greenish sky, large hail, a large, dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating), loud roar, similar to a freight train. If you see any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

What to do during a tornado: Take shelter immediately! If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows. Get out of automobiles. Get out of mobile homes. Do not get under an overpass or bridge. If you are outside without shelter, lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover your head with your hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.

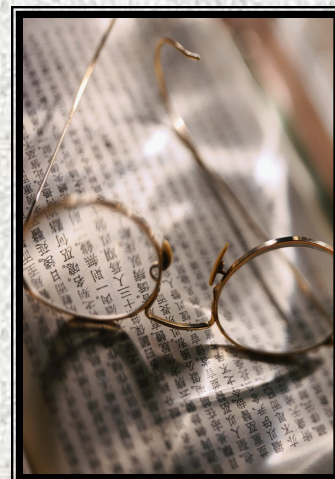
What to do after a tornado: Check the safety of your family. Be aware of: washed out roads, contaminated water, gas leaks, broken glass, electrical wiring, poisonous snakes, wildlife, weakened bridges and buildings. Things to check: gas, wires, roof, foundation, chimney, appliances, water & sewage systems. Take pictures and keep good records of repair and cleaning costs. Call your insurance agent. For more information visit www.fema.gov.

KCD's Executive Director, Bob Rittenhouse will retire on June 30th after nine years with KCD. We wish him well in the next chapter of his life.



TCDHH Council Highlights

- On March 8, 2011, the Memphis City School board surrendered their charter and has now become one with the Shelby County School system.
- The Communication Committee, headed up by Summer Chappell, and RID's new Government Affairs Representative, Janet Bailey are working on licensure for interpreters.
- The Department of Health's Injury Prevention Board is working on injury prevention for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and are looking for any information you may have regarding injury prevention.





TCDHH Executive Director's Activities

November

Statewide Workshop for Teachers, Parents, and other Professionals Service Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children – Held at TN School for the Blind

PEPNet Conference in Charlotte, NC – Collaboration with others regarding transitional services and supports for high school students

Hearing Loss Association of America Nashville Chapter Meeting



Rehabilitation Counselors

for the Deaf Training at TRC – Smyrna

Town Hall Meeting in Knoxville

December

Toured through apartments designed for those who are deaf and hard of hearing in Nashville

TRC –Smyrna Graduation

January

Attended the Silent Dinner in Cool Springs

Met with the SERID 2012

Planning Committee in Chattanooga

Bridges Center visit with Sallie Hussey

Deaf Connect of the Mid-South Center visit with Teresa Wilson

Town Hall Meeting in Jackson

February

TN Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) Advisory Council – Serves as Chair of the Tennessee State Intra-Departmental Subcommittee



News from NTRID

Elections were held at the NTRID meeting for a new board to serve the 2010 - 2012 term. Please help us welcome the new NTRID board of officers:

President: **Brooke Roy**

Vice President: **Eric Workman**

Treasurer: **Christine Devlin**

Secretary: **Mary Hunt**

Member at Large: **Rebecca Collins**



Upcoming TCDHH Council Meeting Dates:

- May 20, 2011 *
- August 12, 2011
- November 4, 2011

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Place: Hearing Bridges
415 4th Avenue, South
Nashville, TN 37201

* Rescheduled from May 13th.

News from Hearing Loss Association of America

In December 2010, Sandy Cohen, Director of the Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing was awarded the Gwendolyn A. Pace Advocacy Award by the Nashville Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America.

The Gwendolyn Ann Pace Award was created to recognize important work and advocacy in public awareness, communication needs, and public access for individuals with hearing loss in Tennessee. Gwen was one of the founding members of the Nashville Chapter of HLAA and was a tireless advocate. After her death the Nashville Chapter created this annual award with the gifts received in memory of Gwen. This is the second year it has been presented.

Congratulations Sandy!



Sandy Cohen

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

Tennessee Council for the Deaf
and Hard of Hearing
Citizens Plaza Building, 14th Floor
400 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243

Phone: (615) 313-4918 VP: (615) 713-2871
Fax: (615) 532-4685
TTY: (615) 313-5695
Email: Thom.Roberts@tn.gov

<http://tennessee.gov/humanserv/rehab/cc6.htm>



What is 2-1-1?

It is Tennessee's community services help line. **If you are Deaf and use a video phone**, you will need to call:

- **800-318-9335** -- Davidson, Williamson, Rutherford, Sumner, Cheatham, Robertson, Wilson, Maury, Cannon, Trousdale, Dickson, Benton, Chester, Clay, Cumberland, Decatur, DeKalb, Fentress, Giles, Hardin, Henry, Hickman, Humphreys, Jackson, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Marshall, Overton, Perry, Pickett, Putnam, Rutherford, Smith, Van Buren, Warren, Wayne, and White
- <http://tn211.mycommunitypt.com/> -- Or you can go to this website and search for the information yourself. You will speak to someone who is trained to help you figure out your needs. They can give you phone numbers and addresses for help such as:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Emergency Food | • Mortgage Payment | • Literacy Programs |
| • Clothing | • Assistance | • GED |
| • Legal Services | • Transportation | • English as a Second Language |
| • Furniture | • Foreclosure Assistance | • Disaster Services |
| • Rent Payment Assistance | • Utility Assistance | • Tutoring Services |
| | • Community Clinics | • Substance Abuse Services |



Deaf?

Have a problem with drugs or alcohol?

Want signed 12 Step & support meetings?

Deaf Off Drugs and Alcohol offers deaf 12 Step & support meetings led by Deaf facilitators.

All you need is a computer with a web-cam,
high-speed internet and an email account.

If interested, for more information, contact Mandie Roseberry:

(866) 326-4761 vp (937) 222-2400 ext 239 v amanda.roseberry@wright.edu

Upcoming Events



Spring / Summer

WellFEST 2011 will be held April
9th at the Nashville Public
Library

TSD's Family Learning Weekend
will be May 27-29, 2011. For
more info contact Carol Robbins
@ (865) 579-2507.



*Tennessee Mega Conference will be
held June 2-3, 2011
www.tndisabilitymegaconference.org*



*The 2011 RID National
Conference will be held in
Atlanta on July 17-22. For
more info: www.rid.org*



May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

**Friday, May 13th is this years
Annual Better Hearing and Speech
Month Picnic. It is held at a Park
in Nashville. For more info:**

(615) 248-8828.

Alabama Department of Mental
Health's 9th Annual Mental Health
Interpreter Training will be held Au-
gust 22-26, 2011. For more info:
www.mhit.org/2011institute.html



Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Mission Statement

The Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TCDHH) exists to serve as an advocate for culturally appropriate services affecting Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf-Blind persons through coordination, public awareness, and consultation in areas of public service, health care, and education and employment.